

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (new): A dilatation system comprising:

a dilatation pin having a distal end and a diameter which increases proximally from said distal end; and

a tubular guide sleeve having a length and an inside diameter which corresponds to the diameter of the dilatation pin at the distal end, said tubular guide sleeve being separable over the entire length along at least one line.

Claim 13 (new): A dilatation system as in claim 12 further comprising a veress canula having an outer diameter which corresponds to the inner diameter of the guide sleeve.

Claim 14 (new): A dilatation system as in claim 12 wherein said guide sleeve comprises at least one longitudinally extending frangible area.

Claim 15 (new): A dilatation system as in claim 14 comprising two diametrically opposite longitudinally extending frangible areas.

Claim 16 (new): A dilatation system as in claim 14 wherein each said frangible area comprises one of a perforation and a regionally reduced wall thickness.

Claim 17 (new): A dilatation system as in claim 12 wherein said guide sleeve comprises at least two concentric sleeves, each said concentric sleeve having at least one longitudinally extending frangible area, each said frangible area being circumferential displaced from the frangible areas in each other concentric sleeve.

Claim 18 (new): A dilatation system as in claim 12 wherein said guide sleeve has a proximal end formed with a holding element.

Claim 19 (new): A dilatation system as in claim 12 wherein said guide sleeve has a distal end which is tapered.

Claim 20 (new): A dilatation system as in claim 12 wherein said guide sleeve is manufactured of transparent plastic.

Claim 21 (new): A dilatation system as in claim 12 wherein said dilatation pin comprises a cutter for separating the guide sleeve as the dilatation pin is inserted into the guide sleeve.

Claim 22 (new): A tubular guide sleeve for a dilatation system of the type comprising a dilatation pin having a distal end and a diameter which increases proximally from

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said distal end; said guide sleeve having a length and an inside diameter which corresponds to the diameter of the dilatation pin at the distal end, said tubular guide sleeve being separable over the entire length along at least one line.